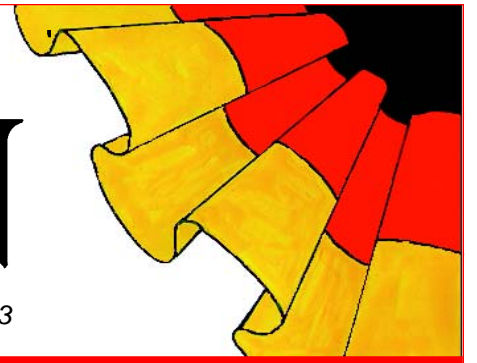


THE CITIZEN

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Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Let the holidays begin!

Area installations host tree-lighting ceremonies, visits from Santa Claus

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

Everyone's favorite North Pole resident made appearances on four Stuttgart-area installations to help community members ring in the holiday season.

With an assist from Youth Services' Keystone Club members and Toys 'R' Us (which donated gifts for military children worldwide) Santa Claus handed out toys and heard last-minute Christmas-present pleas Dec. 9 to 12 in Stuttgart.

Claus's area appearances coincided with tree-lighting ceremonies on Patch Barracks, Kelley Barracks,

Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks.

"It's heartwarming to see such an outpouring of holiday spirit in the 6th Area Support Group," Claus said, adding that his Stuttgart experience reinforced the warm sentiments he had received during earlier visits to Garmisch and Bad Aibling.

In addition to the joy of area children, Claus said he was particularly impressed with the Christmas enthusiasm demonstrated by the 6th ASG's director of community activities.

"It seemed like I couldn't go anywhere in Stuttgart without Dennis Maruska showing up there, too," the elf observed. "That man must love this holiday."

Holiday events in Stuttgart

■ **Concert for the Holidays** – Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., in the Stuttgart Theatre Center on Kelley Barracks. For more information call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825

■ **Stuttgart Weihnachtsmarkt** – Mondays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., until Dec. 24. For details visit www.stuttgart.de.

Worship schedule

Dec. 21

- Protestant Christmas Worship Service – Patch Chapel, 11 a.m.
- Gospel Christmas Celebration – Marriott Hotel Sindelfingen, 5 p.m.

Dec. 23

- CLGI Christmas Fellowship – Robinson Barracks Chapel, 7 p.m.

Dec. 24

- Catholic Parish Children's Mass with pageant – Patch Chapel, 4:45 p.m.
- Catholic Parish Midnight Mass with caroling – Patch Chapel, 11 p.m.
- Protestant Christmas Eve Service – Patch Chapel, 7 p.m.
- Lutheran Christmas Eve Children's Service – Panzer Chapel, 7 p.m.

Dec. 25

- Catholic Christmas Day Mass – RB Chapel, 11:30 a.m.
- Lutheran Christmas Worship with communion – Panzer Chapel, 11 a.m.

Jan. 1

- Catholic Parish New Year's Day Mass – Panzer Chapel, 10:30 a.m.



A young community member spends a few moments with St. Nick in the Stuttgart Army Community Service office Dec. 10. Santa visited four Stuttgart-area installations to help residents ring in the holiday season.